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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. 011.2B-11335-US01

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 18, 2004. Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (2001/003672).

In the present invention, the inventors have found that not only an average secondary particle diameter of silica but also an average primary particle diameter of silica is important for polishing a wafer in suitable manner, specifically for reducing haze on the surface of the polished wafer.

In contrast, US2001/0003672 (Inoue et al.) discloses in the paragraphs 0047 and 0048 of the specification that an average secondary particle diameter of silica is important for polishing a wafer in suitable manner. However, it does not disclose or suggest that an average primary particle diameter of silica is important for polishing a wafer in suitable manner. It merely discloses in the paragraphs 0064 and 0084 of the specification that a primary particle diameter of colloidal silica of Examples and Comparative Examples is 35 nm, which is out of the range from 5 to 30 nm as claimed in the present invention.

Further, the polishing composition of the present invention is capable of remarkably reducing haze that occurs on a wafer surface. US2001/0003672, however, does not disclose or suggest that an average primary particle diameter and average secondary particle diameter of silica influence haze.

Therefore, the claimed features and the advantages obtained by the claimed features are not obvious from US2001/0003672. Thus, we believe that the present invention is patentable over the cited references without amending the claims. This is clearly not a case of simply determining optimum process parameters. Nothing in the prior art would suggest anything that may be done to reduce hazing. The inventors herein have invented and claimed a unique composition and method that is not obvious over the prior art.

It is believed that all claims are patentable over the cited art.

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Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

Date: December 2, 2004

By: 

Scott Q. Vidas
Registration No.: 30812

6109 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 2000
Minnetonka, MN 55343-9185
Telephone: (952) 563-3000
Facsimile: (952) 563-3001

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